



SPECIAL WINTER ISSUE

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FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

A Newsletter of the Fish and Wildlife Division, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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Fish and Fishing is Big Business

by Paul Johnson, DNR Director

It is a fact, the image projected in a picture or painting can be worth a thousand words and, as a child, I remember one such painting that hung on the west wall of the local barber shop. If you had similar interests and grew-up in the early 1950s, you might even remember this painting. As I remember, it adorned a calendar advertising a popular hair cream.

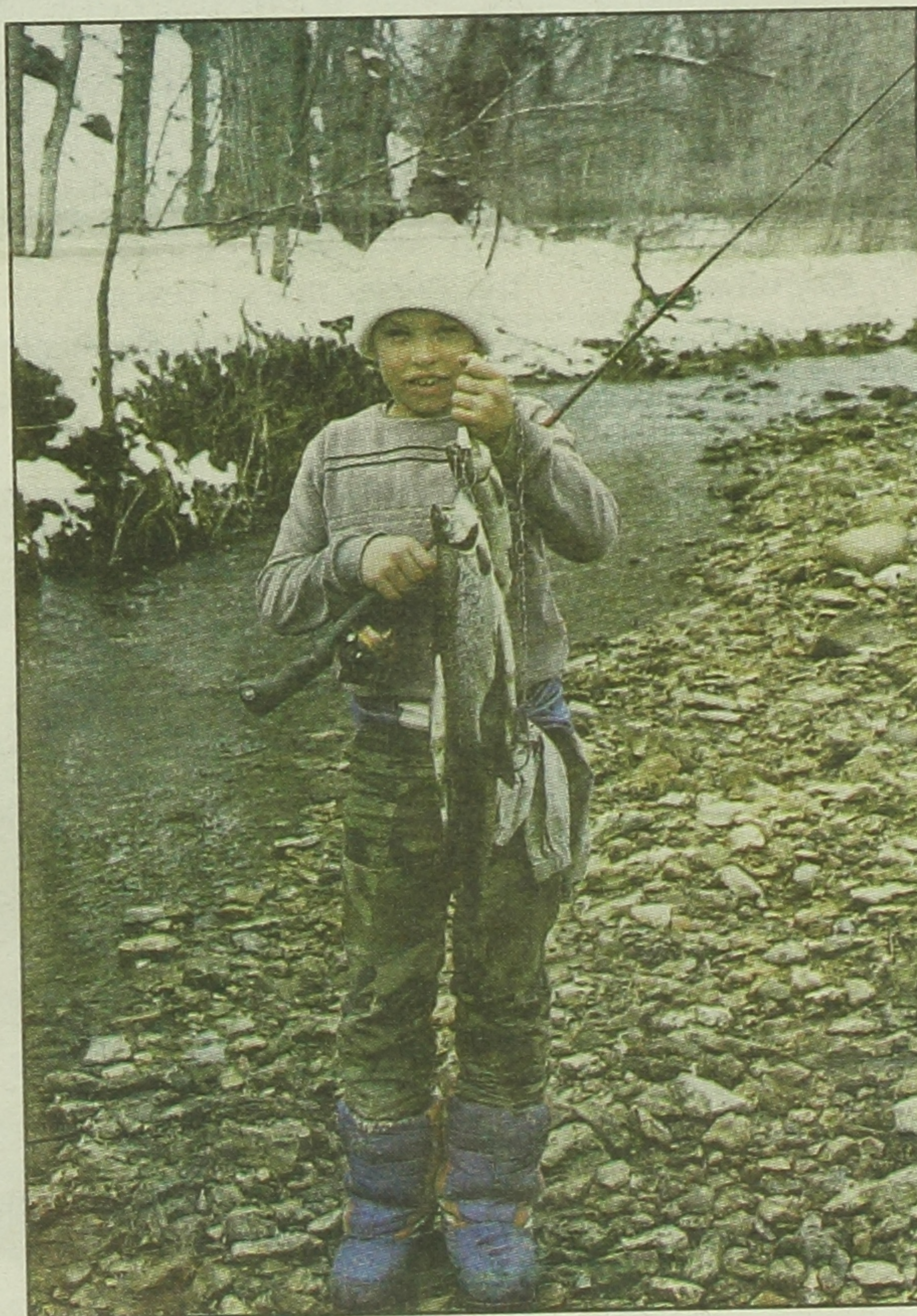
The scene was friendly and inviting. Do you remember it? The main ingredients were a little boy, a little girl, two cane poles, two straw hats, a can of worms, a red barn, a small pond and a playful puppy. To me, it is these ingredients that best describe why fishing has been, and always will be, one of our most popular pastimes. It is only natural we get hooked on fishing as kids and hone those skills through the patience and help of family and friends.

The four decades that elapsed since my childhood have resulted in many changes. Farms and cities are larger, cars are more comfortable and we exchange information more often and with greater speed.

Fishing also evolved. Fishing poles were replaced by rods and reels, lakes became larger and wooden boats became antiques. One thing that did not change, however, was the natural interest boys and girls have in fishing and the popularity of fishing among adults. More than 50 percent of our youth, and over one third of a million Iowans, fish each year.

Fishing is also very important to our local and state economies. Each year, we spend \$350 million dollars in our fishing activities. Yes, fishing is a big business in Iowa and important to many of us. Its future looks very good and our efforts to maintain and improve fishing is well supported by you, the angler.

Your support coming from the purchase of fishing licenses and taxes paid on fishing equipment equals about \$8 million each year and is used to maintain and improve the quality of fish and fishing in Iowa's lakes and streams.



Dave Moeller

Our fishing industry is strong in Iowa because of your support and, as Director of your Iowa Department of Natural Resources, I'm very proud of your support for wise use and conservation of the states natural resources.

Assessment of Important Iowa Resource Underway

-- Iowa's DNR Fish Hatcheries

by Mike Mason, DNR Hatcheries Supervisor

Because DNR fish hatcheries are so important to Iowa fisheries, a study is currently underway to assess hatchery conditions and needs to ensure their future success.

Iowa's hatcheries play a crucial role in providing fisheries management biologists with one of the tools necessary to provide quality recreational fishing opportunities to Iowa's angling community. Iowa's cool-water/warm-water hatcheries annually stock some 278 public lakes and ponds and more than 134 river and stream segments. In addition, the Fisheries Bureau's statewide farm pond program annually provides largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish to 300 ponds totaling some 600 acres.

Alone, Iowa's farm pond owners annually host approximately 1.6 million fishing trips by licensed anglers.

Fisheries Bureau trout stocking requests have thus far been met by Iowa's trout program and the three trout hatcheries. However, many of the requests from Fisheries Bureau biologists for warm- and cool-water fish species have not been met.

The current annual expenditure for Iowa's fish hatchery program is approximately \$1.8 million or 19

percent of the Fisheries Bureau budget. In 1999, the Fisheries Bureau produced and stocked 12 different species of fish from three trout hatcheries (Big Spring, Decorah, Manchester), five cool-water/warm-water hatcheries (Fairport, Guttenberg, Mount Ayr, Rathbun, Spirit Lake), and two walleye spawning stations (Clear Lake, Storm Lake).

The Natural Resources Commission has approved contracting with FishPro Engineers & Scientists to assess the warm-water/cool-water hatcheries at Fairport, Guttenberg, Mount Ayr, Rathbun and Spirit Lake and their present production capabilities and future needs and conditions that limit fish production. The consultant will be expected to provide cost estimates associated with making improvements to water supplies, pond dikes, kettles, raceways and other hatchery facilities at existing locations in order to provide fish production capabilities to meet current and future needs. Included in the assessment will be an evaluation of the merits of closing one or more existing hatcheries and constructing a new facility centrally located within the state.

Here's a brief look at each of the five hatcheries under study:

Fairport Hatchery

The Fairport hatchery is located along Highway 22 approximately six miles east of Muscatine in Muscatine County. In the early 1900s, the site was donated to the federal government by the Association of Button Manufacturers. In 1908, a biological station was built by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, primarily for freshwater mussel research and propagation. In 1929, its role was changed to a fish production station. The Iowa DNR took over operation of the Fairport Hatch-

Over 3 million northern pike frye are raised at the Guttenberg Hatchery each year.



Clay Smith

ery from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1973, under a cooperative agreement with the Service. In 1996, Fairport was deeded to the Iowa DNR by the federal government.

At the present time there are 18 acres of drainable ponds at the station. The Mississippi River is the primary source of water for this facility. The station currently spawns largemouth bass and bluegill and rears northern pike, walleye, saugeye, channel catfish and white amur. The facility serves as the distribution point for Iowa's farm pond stocking program.

Impediments to production include:

1. Zebra mussels have appeared in the water supply and ponds since 1993. While chemical treatments are being used to kill these invaders, there is still the possibility of zebra mussels spreading from this facility to state-

wide waters.

2. The holding house is very old and in the flood plain.
3. All of the pond harvest structures (kettles) are in poor or very poor condition.
4. Ponds leak, some so badly that they are only marginally useful.
5. Lower ponds do not drain if the river is just a bit high.
6. The drainage ditch from the ponds to the river has silted in as well as the river itself causing drainage problems.
7. Ponds are different sizes and some too large to manage.
8. Ponds are double- and triple-cropped in an attempt to produce fish requested.
9. Electrical or air supply are not available to aerate ponds when they stratify.

Guttenberg Hatchery

The Guttenberg Hatchery is located in the town of Guttenberg in Clayton County. It is housed in the basement of the Guttenberg Fish Management Facility, which is adjacent to the U.S. Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam No. 10. The facility was constructed in 1938 and operated by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries until 1971. Originally the facility included 40 acres of rearing ponds on an island in the Mississippi River.

Between 1971 and 1974 the facility housed offices for the Refuge Bureau of the USFWS. The Iowa Conservation Commission leased the facility from the USFWS from 1974 until 1986 when the USFWS officially deeded the station to the State of Iowa. Also in 1986, the 40 acres of rearing ponds were reconstructed for waterfowl use as part of the USFWS refuge system.

The hatchery currently consists of eight holding tanks and two incubation units.

Management staff, with assistance from other Fisheries Bureau personnel, collect and spawn northern pike. Northern pike are the only species produced at this hatchery, which only operates from late March to early April.

Impediments to fish production and public visitation include:

1. Dissolved oxygen from pumped water supply may be high in nitrogen gas.
2. Holding tank water supply is unheated and unfiltered.
3. Hatchery discharge line is deteriorated and the outlet is eroding away.
4. Steel holding tanks deteriorating.

Mount Ayr Hatchery

Located approximately two miles north of Mount Ayr in Ringgold County is the Mount Ayr hatchery. Loch Ayr is the water supply source for the hatchery and the lake was originally built as the city of Mount Ayr's water supply reservoir. The city of Mount Ayr originally owned the property the hatchery sits on, however an agreement in 1941 between the city and the state of Iowa allows the DNR to use the land on the north side of the road. In 1959, three additional rearing ponds were added to property the DNR owns on the south side of the road.

The hatchery consists of eight earthen ponds totaling 6.35 surface acres. The facility spawns bluegills and redear sunfish and also produces walleyes, small-mouth bass, channel catfish, and white amur.

Impediments to production include:

1. Water supply line and valves are deteriorated.
2. Harvest kettles are deteriorated.
3. Dikes are in bad shape in the larger ponds.
4. Limited fish holding capabilities.
5. The need to triple crop ponds.

Rathbun Hatchery

The Rathbun Hatchery is located seven miles north of Centerville in Appanoose County directly below the Rathbun Lake Dam. The hatchery was completed in 1976 and is currently undergoing expansion to add 10 1-acre and six 0.1-acre lined drainable ponds with harvest kettles. Water flows by gravity to the hatchery through a 30-inch pipe at one of two levels in Rathbun Lake located in the U.S. Corps of Engineers control tower. Water to either the outdoor concrete ponds or indoor tanks can be oxygenated using degassing/aeration columns. In addition, the indoor water supply is sand filtered, ultraviolet treated, and can be heated by use of two oil-fired boilers. The water is pumped to a headbox and gravity flows to 40 concrete rearing tanks and a 200 jar incubator. Twenty outdoor intensive rearing ponds receive gravity flow water.

The facility spawns and rears walleye and channel catfish. Additional species reared includes largemouth bass, saugeye and muskellunge.

Impediments to production include:

1. Hatchery monitoring, flow meters and alarm system are outdated and spare parts are becoming unavailable.
2. Oil-fired boilers are somewhat outdated and inefficient.
3. Settling ponds are silting in and pond banks are becoming unstable.
4. Indoor rearing tanks need to be epoxy painted.
5. At capacity for rearing space and water.

Spirit Lake Hatchery

The Spirit Lake Hatchery is located one mile north of the city of Spirit Lake in Dickinson County. The hatchery is situated on an isthmus between Spirit and East Okoboji lakes. In 1888, a fish hatchery was operated by the state at the present location. In 1963, the current main hatchery/office facility was constructed to replace a hatchery building which was built in 1917 and improved in 1927. Enlargement of the tank room for intensive culture was completed in 1978. A new 20-inch water line from Spirit Lake to the filter

pond was completed in 1994, replacing a water supply line that was damaged during flooding in 1993.

Spirit Lake production facilities consists of six separate egg incubator units with a total capacity of 832 quarts, 31 indoor rearing tanks, nine non-drainable ponds, two drainable ponds and two nearby natural lakes. Welch Lake is approximately 57 acres and

A pond harvest structure (kettle) in need of repair at Fairport Hatchery.



Sunken Lake in about 12 acres. The facility currently spawns muskellunge and walleye and rears them for stocking statewide. The hatchery also serves as the holding facility for the majority of fish used at the Iowa State Fair DNR fish aquarium.

Erosion and disconnected water discharge pipe at Guttenburg Hatchery.

Impediments to fish production and public visitation include:

1. Water quality and temperature are variable due to the surface water supply.
2. Increasing demands on intensively reared walleye requires more rearing area.
3. Aquaria are in poor shape.
4. The two large nursery lakes are difficult to manage and are labor intensive during harvest.

Other issues facing Iowa's fish culture program are:

1. Increased stocking requests from management biologists as a result of lake construction and expanded interior stream stocking.
2. Hatcheries located in border counties often mean long distances to stock lakes, ponds and streams.

The demand for fish from Iowa's hatcheries exceeds current capabilities. Iowa's aging fish culture facilities raises the possibility of catastrophic failures of hatchery components and loss of fish production. The comprehensive study and resulting fiscal implications will advise the DNR on how it can provide recreational and fishing opportunities into the 21st century.

Sport Fish Restoration - 50 Years of Success

Sport Fish Restoration! What is that?

For 50 years anglers have been supporting more fishing opportunities and improved fishing and boating programs through the taxes paid when buying fishing equipment and boat fuel. That's right, buying a first rod and reel for a child, stocking up on tackle before the season begins or filling the boat tank with fuel all help support the sport anglers enjoy.

Taxes anglers have paid for 50 years have gone to the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Since 1950 this federal program has been expanded several times to benefit more anglers and boaters. The program now places a 10 percent tax on most fishing equipment. Three percent of the cost of electric trolling motors and flasher-type fish finders support the program. A portion of the federal gas tax attributed to motor boat fuels also goes to the program.

How the Program Works!

The Sport Fish Restoration funding cycle is shown below. Although it appears complex, it is quite simple. When an angler or boater makes a purchase, the tax they pay is built into the wholesale cost of the item. The manufacturer passes the money collected to the federal government which then passes money on to state fish and wildlife agencies. The amount each state receives is dependent on the number of fishing licenses sold and land area. Since 1986 the Iowa Department of Natural Resource has received an average of \$2.5 million annually in program funds.

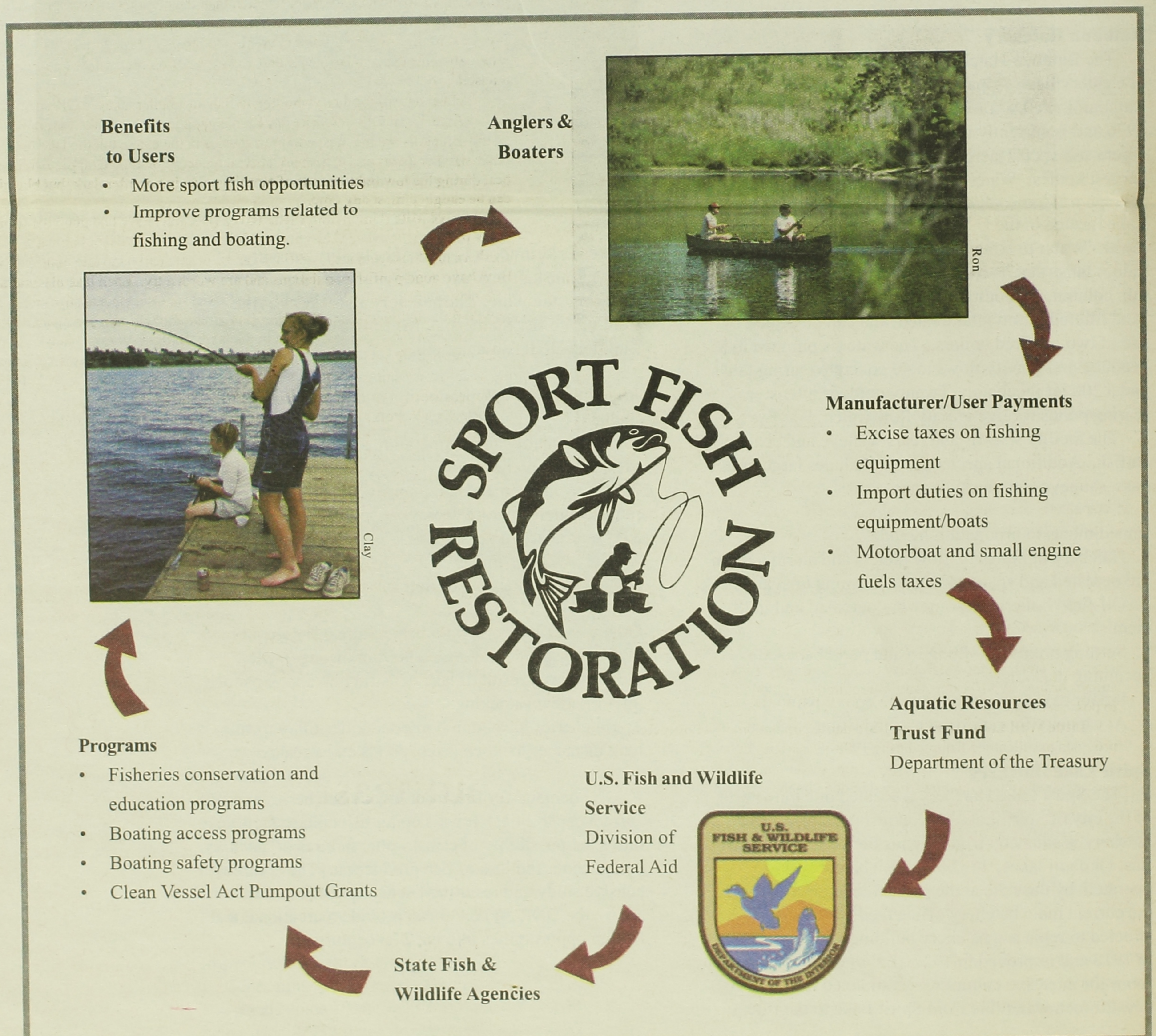
For example, Gill Fisher walks into Wallys Tackle Shop and purchases a fishing rod. The manufacturer sold the rod to Wally

for \$20 and paid \$2 in excise tax to the Sport Fish Restoration Program. Add that \$2 to the amount collected from millions of other purchases over the past 50 years. To date, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has passed more than \$44 million to the DNR to improve fishing and boating recreation.

What Sport Fish Restoration means to Iowa Anglers!

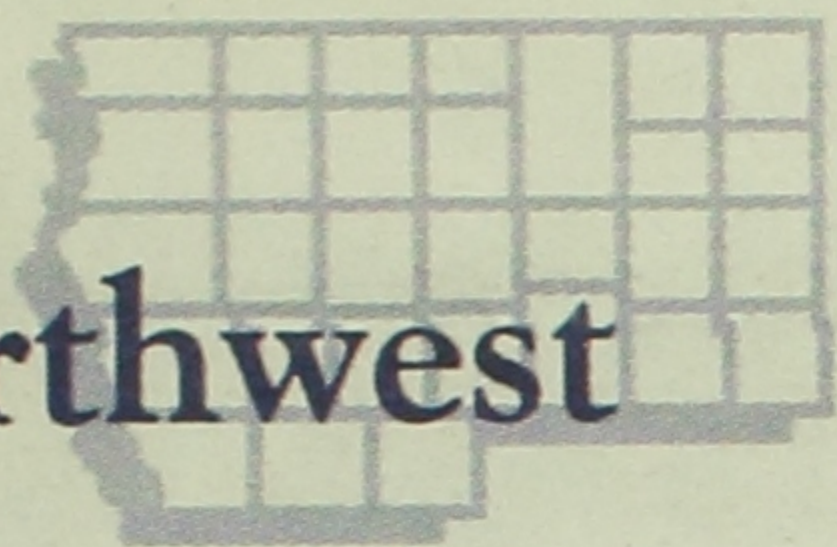
Sport Fish Restoration has brought more than \$44 million to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources since 1950, \$35 million since 1985 when Congress significantly expanded items subject to tax collection. With these funds the DNR has:

1. implemented an Aquatic Education Program in which 11,000 teachers annually reach 500,000 students in more than 65 percent of Iowa's school districts.
2. provided improved shore fishing opportunities at 27 lakes and two trout streams and statewide maintenance activities at boat ramps.
3. constructed three lakes and restored four lakes.
4. constructed fish habitat in 11 Iowa lakes, six rivers and six trout streams.
5. improved and restored two fish hatcheries
6. conducted research studies resulting in management techniques to improve and create better sport fisheries.
7. acquired 5,115 acres to construct five lakes and to protect fish habitat and water quality in six lakes
8. acquired 3,743 acres at 14 trout streams



1999-2000 ICE FISHING REPORT

Northwest



At **Silver and Spirit lakes** (Dickinson), two strong year classes (1995-1996) will offer anglers good numbers of 15- to 20-inch walleyes. The best time to

fish is during the twilight period before and after sunrise and sunset. Jigging spoons and minnows are proven baits. Surveys conducted at **Ingham Lake** (Emmet) during 1999 indicate good numbers of 15- to 20-inch walleyes. Fish larger than 20 inches are also available.

Surveys at **Little Swan Lake** (Dickinson) indicate this could be the "prize" for yellow perch 10 inches and larger. Wigglers and mini-jigs are proven perch baits. The lake also holds a nice population of northern pike. Larger minnows and chubs fished with a jigging spoon or under a tip-up are proven techniques.

Northern pike 5 pounds and larger are being caught consistently at **Tuttle Lake** (Emmet). At **Trumbull Lake** (Clay), northern pike more than 30 inches are not uncommon and yellow perch from 9 to 11 inches will be available for ice anglers during the upcoming season. Anglers would be well-advised to get to this lake early in the season.

At **West Okoboji** (Dickinson), there are many northern pike and bluegills available in this traditionally favorite ice fishing destination. The bluegills run from 6 to 8 inches. Small jigs and teardrops with and without waxworms are predicted to be good baits.

Ingham (Emmet), **Center** (Dickinson) and **Five Island and Silver Lake**, (Palo Alto) have excellent numbers of crappies available. Ingham has the largest fish. Anglers should consider fishing after dark. Aeration systems are operated on Ingham, Five Island and Center lakes and anglers are urged to use caution and avoid areas of thin ice.



Clay Smith

Walleye numbers have improved for ¾ to 2-pound at fish **Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo). Most walleyes taken this winter will be 12 to 16 inches (remember: 14-inch minimum). The optimum time to fish is one-half hour before or after sunrise and sunset. Most walleyes taken through the ice are caught in water 10 feet or deeper. Jigging spoons tipped with a minnow head or large minnows fished under a bobber or tip-up are the proven techniques.

Blue Pit (Mason City), a popular urban fishery located in Lester Milligan Park, is stocked with 5,000 catchable size rainbow trout throughout the winter. Stockings begin shortly before freeze-up in late November and continue once per month for the remainder of the winter. Most trout are caught suspended off the bottom at a depth of 3 to 10 feet below the surface. A large variety of baits work including: small minnows, Berkley trout bait, waxworms, cheese or small jigging spoons or jigs. A \$10 trout stamp is required in addition to your fishing license to possess trout.

Little Wall Lake (Hamilton) has a dense population of yellow perch, which provided excellent ice fishing during 1998-99 season. Expect to do plenty of sorting for keepable-size fish (7 to 9 inches), with an occasional jumbo. Best success is with small minnows fished under a bobber. In addition to perch, quality-size bluegills from 7 to 9 inches are available. Small ice flies (teardrop) tipped with waxworms have proven to be good baits for bluegill.

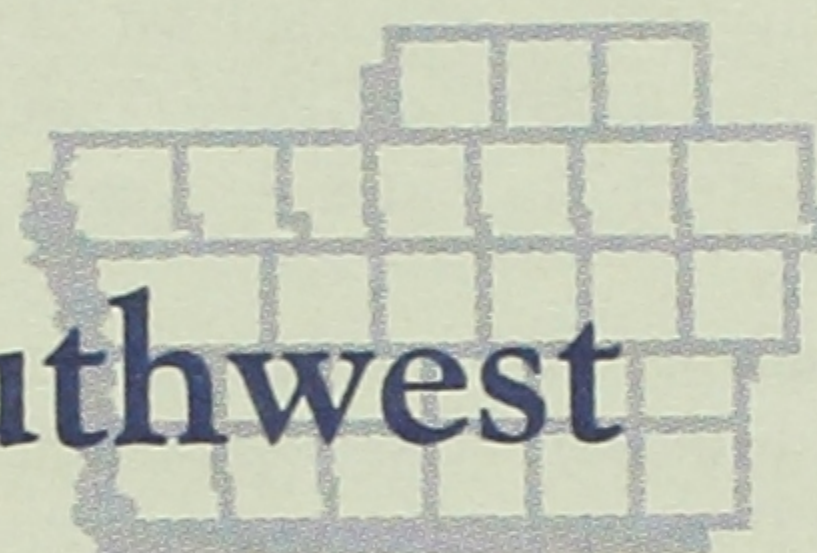
At **Beeds Lake**, (Franklin) – An abundant population of crappies can be found in this 100-acre artificial lake. Most crappies run around 8 inches, however fish over 10 inches are available. Early morning and evening hours or after dark are the optimum times to catch crappies. Anglers use small minnows or ice flies tipped with insect larvae. Bluegills are plentiful in Beeds Lake, and provide good opportunity for ice anglers. Most will be between 6 and 7 inches. Northern pike are also taken through the ice on Beeds Lake. Pike anglers should use large minnows or chubs fished under a bobber or tip-up.

A tremendous fall fishery has developed at **Crawford Creek**. Anglers should have success at this 62-acre lake, located south of Battle Creek during

the ice-fishing season. Large numbers of 8- to 12 -inch crappies are present in the lake and have been caught this fall. Most anglers fishing Crawford Creek in the winter use live minnows or jigs tipped with wax worms. The old creek channel is a good location as well as the stake beds. Crappies like to suspend in the water column during the winter months so vary the depth of your lures until you locate a school of fish.

A good population of bluegills between 7 and 10 inches are present at **Yellow Smoke Lake**, located just east of Denison. Anglers fishing near the flooded timber with tear drops tipped with wax worms are sure to bring home a meal of this tasty panfish. Yellow Smoke also has some nice crappies between 8 and 12 inches. These can be caught using the same lures that catch bluegill or a live minnow. After dark, crappie becomes active under the ice. Live minnows fished by the dead trees should produce some "slab" crappies.

Southwest



Each year ice fishing has become increasingly popular each year in southwest Iowa. Many of our popular lakes sprout mini-cities of fishing shelters after

sufficient ice forms. For those new to ice fishing there are several basics to remember; dress warmly, use small lures, light line, ultralite rods, and be sure to have a good supply of live bait. A small diameter and very sharp ice auger works best for drilling holes through the ice. A bucket to carry equipment, sit on and carry your fish home is also recommended. One of the most important things to remember is to move often if not catching fish.

The top choice for best ice fishing lake this winter is **Three Mile Lake** (Union) near Afton. It's a new lake which has only been full for several years, but it has plenty of keeper panfish, thick, 9-inch black crappies were being caught by the bucket-full last fall and many are still present in the lake. Bluegills are also abundant and easier to catch than the crappies. Average size for bluegills is 7 1/2 inches. Last winter one of the better places to fish on the lake was west of the north boat ramp in the flooded trees. Three Mile is still a relatively untested lake for ice fishing and exploration for the best spots is still advised.

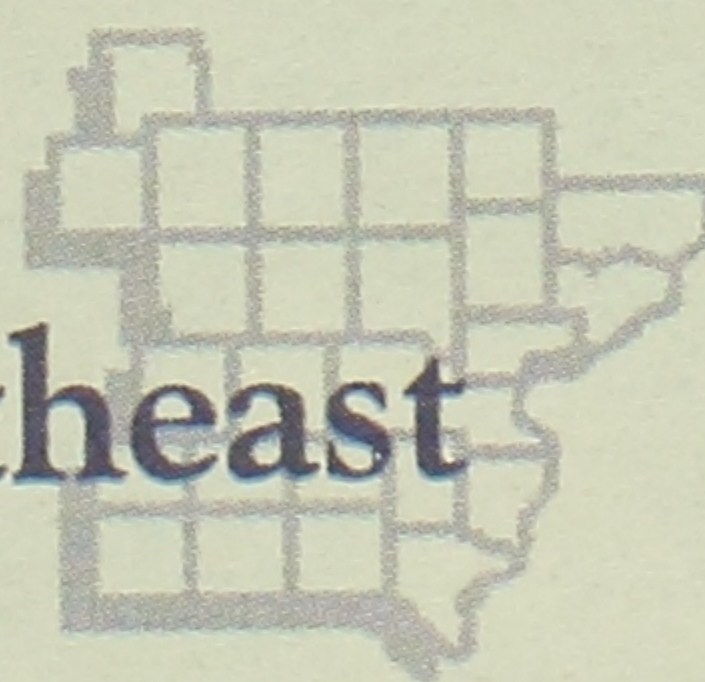
A close second for those who like to fish on smaller lakes is **Greenfield Lake** (Adair). This 48-acre lake has been a good ice fishing lake for many years. Bluegills are the most common species in the catch, but the lake has good-sized crappies and catfish are also taken occasionally. Crappie fishing is best during the low light periods of morning, evening or after dark, but bluegill can be caught almost any time.

Twelve Mile (Union) and **Little River** (Decatur) have had good ice fishing in the past and they should be good again this year. Little River is Iowa's southern most lake and ice conditions can be unsafe early and late in the season. Both have good panfish populations and are worth a try. Each lake also has a healthy walleye population. **West Lake** (Clarke) at Osceola had super ice fishing for both bluegills and crappies last winter and will be good again this year. Surveys show good sized fish in the lake. **Badger Creek** (Madison) near VanMeter has been one of the better lakes in the past and it will be good again this year. Best fishing at Badger Creek usually starts after 4 PM, especially late in the season.

Big Creek (Polk) is a heavily fished lake north of Polk City and is definitely worth a try. Big Creek is another place to pick up a nice walleye or catfish. Seven inch bluegill and 7- to 10-inch crappie can be caught. Try the Hidden Lake area. Within the city limits of Des Moines try **Easter Lake**. Brush piles in mid-lake should produce 7- to 9-inch crappies. Viking Lake has produced some good ice fishing in the past, but it can be unpredictable. Some years are good and others poor. The lake has good bluegills and yellow bass, however, crappies are on the small side.

Prairie Rose (Shelby) and **Icaria** (Adams) have an abundance of 8-inch crappies for the taking and are popular with ice anglers. Other lakes that should have good ice fishing for panfish are **Lake Ahquabi** (Warren), **Beaver Lake** (Dallas), **Hooper** (Warren), **Lake Orient** (Adair) and **Fogle Lake** (Ringold). Finally, don't forget southern Iowa's abundant farm ponds. They freeze over first and many produce excellent catches through the ice.

Southeast



Conditions for ice-fishing in southeast Iowa this winter appear to be excellent. The unusual dry spell in the fall has left area waters very clear, which is always an advantage when angling for panfish.

At **Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose), large numbers of 8- to 10-inch panfish are available, with trophy sizes available. Good success is found in the timbered areas above the Bridgeview area. **Lake Sugema** (Van Buren) is home to a tremendous population of 7- to 8-inch bluegills also, crappies between 9 and 10 inches are available, but not in the numbers like that of the bluegill. Most angling is in the lower half of the lake, but other areas should be investigated.

Anglers at **Hawthorn Lake** (Mahaska) will have success fishing around standing timber for 7- to 8-inch bluegills and 8- to 11-inch crappies. Excellent

Southeast Iowa continued

numbers of 9- to 12-inch crappies are present at **Lake Keomak** (Mahaska). The dam has been a hot spot in the past.

Anglers at **Lake Miami** (Monroe) should concentrate on areas of standing timber for an excellent population of 8- to 10-inch crappies. Bluegills between 7 and 8 inches can be caught. Good numbers of 9- to 10-inch crappies and bluegills more than 8 inches can be caught at **Lake Wapello** (Davis). Look to submerged trees or points that extend far out into the lake for hot spots.

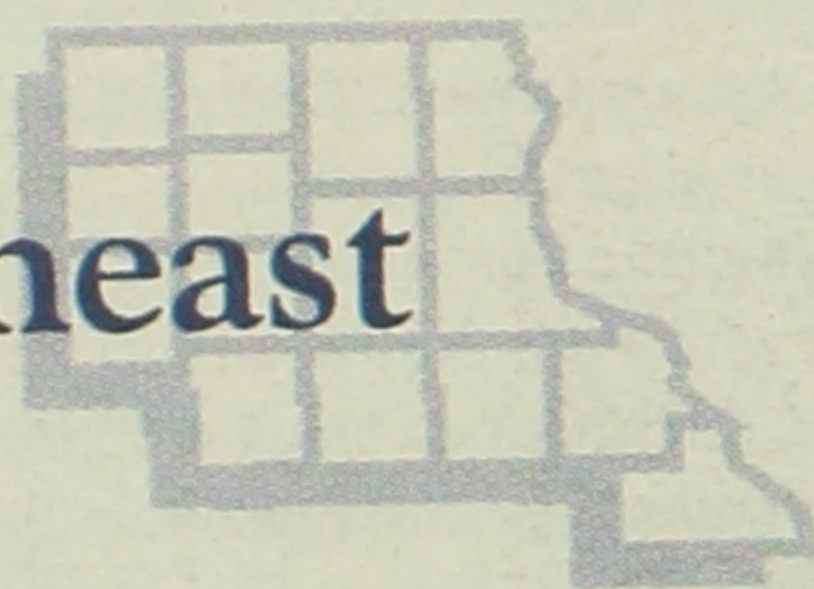
Anglers will find two sizes of fish available at **Lake Darling** (Washington), 6- to 8-inch and 10- to 14-inch. Fishing above cedar trees has produced good success. At **Lake Odessa** (Louisa), fall angling produced good catches of 10+ inch crappies. This trend should continue this winter.

Crappie fishing is usually good at **Lake Macbride** (Johnson) early in the ice fishing season. Expect to catch fish in the 10- to 12-inch and 7-inch groups. At **Lake Iowa** (Iowa), 8- to 9-inch crappies, 6- to 8-inch bluegills and jumbo redear appear to be plentiful. Anglers at **Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek) should find 7- to 9-inch bluegills and redear and 9- to 10-inch crappies.

Fishing should be good at **Pleasant Creek** (Linn) for crappies and bluegill. This is a very clear lake so anglers should try fishing down at least 20 feet. The dam area is normally a good site for bluegills. At **Union Grove** (Tama), crappies will average 8 inches and bluegills will run from 7 to 9 inches. Anglers will find saugeye from 12 to 16 inches.

On the Mississippi River, fishing for quality size crappies and bluegills has been good all year at **Big Timber Pool 17** (Louisa) and should continue through the winter. Other sites for panfish include **Davenport Harbor** and **Pool 16** (Scott). The locks and dams are also well known for their excellent walleye and sauger fishing. Vertical jigging with sonar-type lures and various jig and minnow combinations is the most productive angling method. All sizes of fish are available.

Northeast



Even though sedimentation has greatly reduced the overwintering habitats of many **Mississippi River** backwater lakes and sloughs, there are still a variety of areas

that will provide good to excellent ice fishing for bluegills, crappies and an occasional northern pike or largemouth bass. Anglers are advised to seek out those areas with deeper water, submerged vegetation or trees and no current. Because the Mississippi had such low water levels going into the winter months, it may be more challenging to find pockets where these backwater species are congregated.

Minnesota Slough in Pool 9 continues to have excellent populations of crappies, bluegills and largemouth bass. Surveys in the **Lansing Big Lake** complex in Pool 9 revealed abundant largemouth bass, bluegills, crappies and rock bass around brush piles and beaver dams.

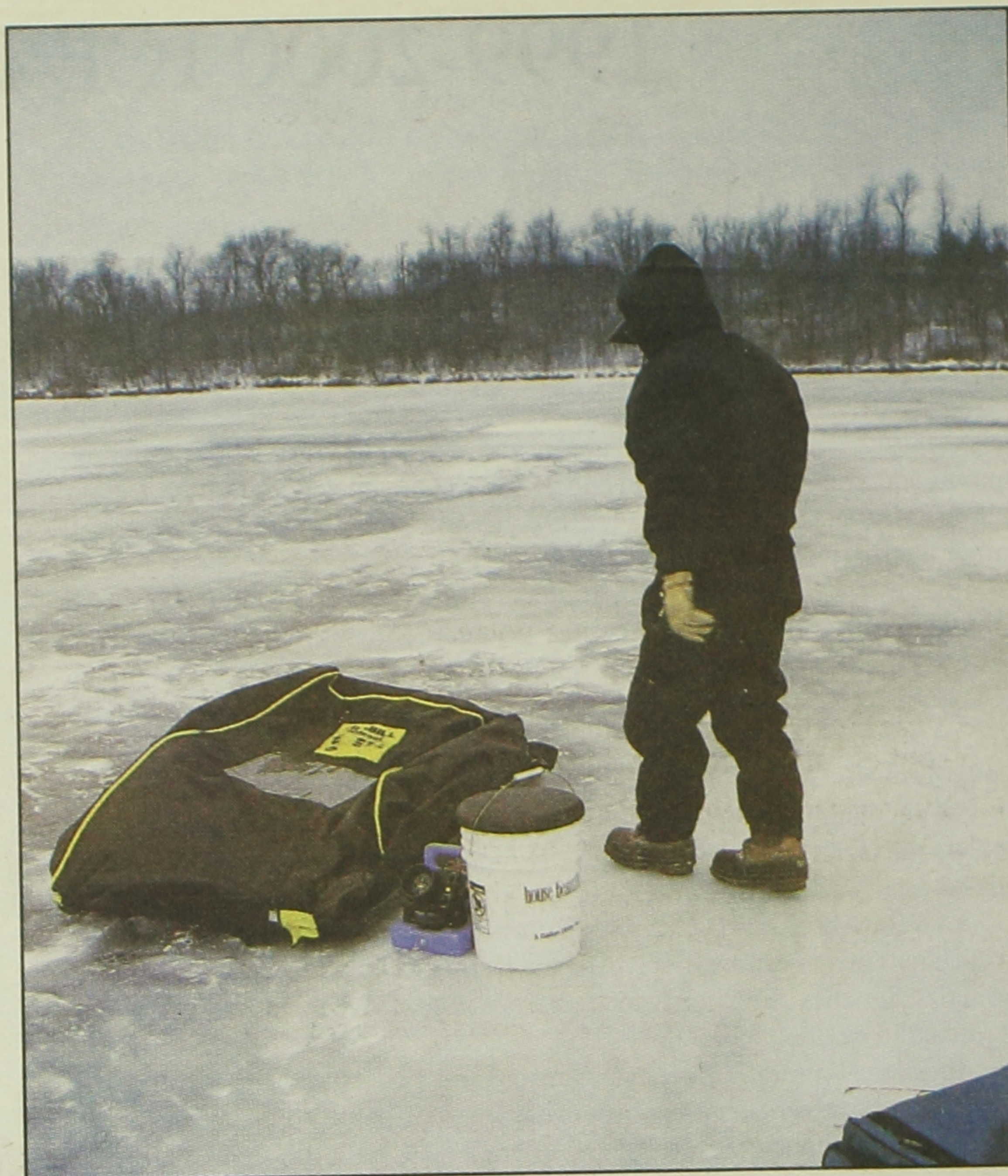
Surveys in the **Harpers Slough** complex in Pool 10 show large numbers of bluegills but relatively few large fish. The **Methodist, Norwegian** and **Sandbar** complex in Pool 10 has areas of 6 to 8 feet of water and good numbers of bluegills and bass. Because of 6- to 8-foot channels dredged a few years ago at **Bussey Lake** in Pool 10, bluegill and crappie fishing has been greatly enhanced. Bussey Lake has easy access and is located just north of Guttenberg.

Swift Slough in Pool 11 at Guttenberg traditionally yields lots of crappies and bluegills, but a boat across the open tailwaters or an air boat are needed to get to this winter hotspot. **Big Pond** in Pool 11 is often quite productive early in the ice fishing season, but also is a difficult spot to get to.

Browns Lake in Pool 13 is a backwater with dredged channels and good numbers of bluegills between 6 and 8 inches. Any black bass caught in Browns



Dave Moeller



Clay Smith

Lake must be immediately released unharmed. **Pin Oak Lake** in Pool 13 has very good numbers of crappies in the 8- to 12-inch range with a few more than 14. **Barge Lake** and **South Sabula Lake** will likely be good for bluegills, crappies and northern pike. The open tailwaters of the **Mississippi River navigation dams** are always favorite spots for anglers seeking the abundant saugers and walleyes congregating there through the winter and early spring months. The more popular tailwaters are near Harpers Ferry, Guttenberg, Dubuque and Bellevue.

Most of the trout streams remain ice-free through all but the coldest of winter weather. This, coupled with excellent numbers of catchable trout stocked at the end of November will result in excellent trout angling success in most of the streams. Suggested catchable streams include **Swiss Valley** (Dubuque), **Richmond Springs** and **Maquoketa River** (Delaware), **Little Mill** (Jackson), **Grannis** (Fayette), **Bloody Run** and **Sny Magill** (Clayton), **Coldwater, Trout Run, Trout River** and **South Bear** (Winnebago) and **Lower French** (Allamakee). **North Bear** (Winnebago) and **Waterloo** above Dorchester (Allamakee) have both wild brown trout populations and hold-over stocked trout. Catchable trout will be stocked monthly in **Blue Pit** (Cerro Gordo), **North Prairie Lake** (Black Hawk) and **Heritage Pond** (Dubuque) in December, January and March.

Special regulation trout streams offer excellent numbers and sizes of wary, stream-reared trout that can be a real challenge. These include **Upper** and **Lower French** and **Lower Waterloo Creek** (Allamakee) down stream of the Highway 76 bridge for wild brown trout, **South Pine** (Winnebago) for wild brook trout, **Bloody Run**, (above Bloody Run Park) and **Ensign Hollow** (Clayton) for brown trout and **Spring Branch** (Delaware) for brown, brook and rainbow. Check the posted signs for specific regulations on affected streams.

A newly acquired section of **Waterloo Creek** gives anglers a unique opportunity to fish for and keep wild brown trout. This 1.3 mile stream section upstream of the Highway 76 bridge has an extremely large population of wild browns, but relatively few greater than 12 inches.

Sweet Marsh's Martens Lake (Bremer) offers good numbers of 9- to 10-inch crappies with a few huge fish in the 12- to 14-inch range. Bluegills run between 5 and 7 inches in this area. Fishing will be good at **Casey Lake** (Tama) for 6- to 8-inch bluegills and for crappies up to 9 inches. Fish around the stake beds and deeper brush piles for best success. **Big Woods Lake** (Black Hawk) has good numbers of bluegills up to 7 inches. **Lake Delhi** (Delaware) offers excellent numbers of quality-size white and yellow bass along with an abundance of crappies. Try either the shallow bays or the deeper areas along the channel.

The **Wapsipinicon River backwaters** (Buchanan) will again be good for 8- to 10-inch crappies. With the low water levels going into the winter, anglers may need to search non-traditional areas to locate them. Tip-ups may also prove to be a good bet as the northern pike population remains very strong. The newly-placed piles of cedar trees in **Volga Lake** (Fayette) will be prime attractors for the abundant 6- to 8-inch bluegills and 8- to 10-inch crappies. **Lake Meyer** (Winnebago) is loaded with 7- to 8-inch crappies and 5- to 6-inch bluegills. **Lake Hendricks** (Howard) has good numbers of 6- to 7-inch bluegills with a few up to 8 inches.



Turn In Poachers

1-800-532-2020

You can remain anonymous
and may be eligible for a
cash reward.

Iowa Fish are Wholesome

Every year Iowa DNR biologists collect samples of fish for laboratory analysis to determine the wholesomeness of fish for human consumption. Edible portions of these fish are analyzed by certified labs and results compared to U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) standards.

Since 1985, about 43 lakes and an estimated 150 river locations have been monitored by collection of more than 525 samples. Fish consumption advisories are posted wherever it is confirmed USFDA standards are exceeded.

From all of this monitoring, we can report that only two consumption advisories exist in the state:

1. We recommend no fish caught from Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids be eaten.

2. We recommend carp and carpsucker caught from Pool 15 of the Mississippi River (Quad Cities area) not be eaten.

Levels of contamination of fish in Iowa continue to decrease as a result of bans on persistent pesticides and the improved management operations in the industrial and agricultural communities.

Recipe Card -- Fish Chowder

*A simple recipe for fish chowder to warm yourself on a cold day.
Makes about 5 quarts.*

Ingredients:

3 slices bacon	6 potatoes
2 large onions	6 filets from 1 pound fish (any white fish)
2 carrots	1 qt beef broth
1 stick celery	1 qt milk
1/2 stick butter	salt and pepper

In a large, heavy pot fry 3 slices of bacon very crisp. Remove to paper towels. Dice the onions and saute' them in the bacon grease until clear. Add beef broth (can be made with bullion cubes). Dice carrots, celery and potatoes into half-inch cubes and add to pot. Crumble bacon and add to pot. Add salt and pepper to taste. Simmer until the veggies start to get soft. Add milk and butter and bring back to a simmer. When veggies are soft, add filets cut into 1-inch cubes. Simmer until fish is white and flakes.

For a thicker broth, blend 1/4 cup of flower with enough of the hot broth to make a thin paste. Make sure all lumps are gone and add slowly back to broth just after the bacon is added. Simmer a little longer. This makes the solid stuff stay suspended better so it won't all settle to the bottom.

Year 2000

A Special Anniversary For Anglers

The year 2000 is one of celebration for anglers and boaters. It marks the 50th anniversary of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFR). Congress passed this act in 1950 for the purpose of restoring our nations sport fisheries and for aquatic education, boating and angling activities. To do this the Act placed an excise tax on fishing equipment and later added a portion of the tax imposed on motor boat fuels. In the past 50 years Iowa anglers and boaters have contributed more than \$44 million through their purchases of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels. Today the Act is commonly referred to as the DJ or Wallop/Breaux program.

In early years most of the money received went for vegetation control, lake construction, habitat improvement, fish population control, expanded public access to fishable waters and fisheries research studies.

Fisheries research has become the essential component in understanding how fish populations are managed, species habitat needs, modern culture techniques and the needs of Iowa anglers. Today fisheries biologists meet angler

needs through new lake construction, expanding fishing opportunities on lakes with traditional poor fisheries; maintenance and expansion of angling and boating accesses; fish habitat restoration and protection measures; better fish hatchery facilities and an aquatic education program that is nationally recognized.

To celebrate the program that you have made a success; **ENTER TO WIN** the contest below. Answer all five questions correctly, fill in your name and address and mail to the DNR to have a chance to win a rod and reel outfit or a life vest. The prize winners will be drawn on National Hunting & Fishing Day, Sept. 16, 2000.

Answer Correctly to Win a Rod/Reel or Life Vest

please circle your answers

1. Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels support sport fish restoration and boating access facilities? True or False
2. The National SFR logo is a boat angler and fish? True or False.
3. The SFR program is also known as DJ and Wallop/Breaux? True or False
4. Since 1950 Iowa anglers have contributed more than \$44 million to the SFR program? True or False
5. Have you heard of the SFR program before now? Yes or No

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Ph: _____

Mail to DNR: SFR Contest
Wallace State Office Bldg.
900 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Prizes donated by the Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Four New State Record Fish for 1999

Blue Catfish, August 14, 1999

Pat Lutz, Panora

Weight 74 lb. 8 oz.

Length 53 3/8 inches

Missouri River,

Buffalo, August 14, 1999

Jim Winters, Jessup

Weight 63 lb. 6 oz.

Length 48 1/2 inches

Mississippi River, Allamakee County

Saugeye, February 19, 1999

Mark Havinga, Webster City

Weight 10 lb. 9 oz.

Length 27 1/2 inches

Des Moines River, Polk County

White Amur, May 1999

Tyler Warner, Greenfield

Weight 61 lb. 8 oz.

Length 49 1/2 inches

Greenfield Lake, Adair County

Register your big fish today

Anglers that catch a fish eligible for the submission in the big fish registry should fill out an entry form from the 2000 fishing regulations. Minimum length requirements are also provided within the fishing regulations. One witness must attest to the weight of the fish to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade, or to the length, which is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (total length). If there is some doubt of species identification, the angler should contact the nearest DNR personnel in the area for verification. New all-time record fish must be examined and verified by the Department of Natural Resources' personnel.

Ice Fishing Clinics to be Held Throughout the State

If cabin fever is setting in, ice fishing can be a wonderful alternative. Whether you're a beginner or pro, or fishing with a crowd or on your own, ice fishing is a great winter sport.

You say you don't know how, you've never ice fished before? Well, now is the time to learn. Several clinics, class demonstrations and tournaments are planned across the state this winter to teach participants the fundamentals of ice fishing.

Following is a list of events scheduled, including the county in which the event will be held, the location, date and a contact number for more information. Pre-registration may be required, so be sure to call for more information.

County	Location	Date	Contact
Buchanan	Koutny Pond, Branden	Jan. 29	319/636/2617
Chickasaw	Airport Lake Park, New Hampton	Jan. 23	515/394-4714
Johnson	Radisson Highlander Plaza, Iowa City	Feb. 19	319/582-9461
Mahaska	Russell Wildlife Area, New Sharon	Jan. 22	515/673-9327
O'Brien	Mills Creek State Park, Paullina	Jan. 22	712/448-2254
Palo Alto	Fire Island Lake, Emmetsburg	Feb. 6	712/852-8047
Pottawattamie	Arrowhead Park, Neola	Jan. 22	712/485-2295
Pottawattamie	Lake Manawa State Park, Council Bluffs	Jan. 29	712/366-0220
Sioux	Winterfield Boating & Fishing, Rock Valley	Jan. 29	712/552-3057
Story	Hickory Grove Park, Colo	Feb. 5	515/232-2516

Find all the fishing information you need including where to fish, Iowa fishing regulations, and a weekly fishing report at the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau Website

www.state.ia.us/fish

2000 Fishing Regulation Changes

The 2000 fishing regulations holds three changes from the 1999 booklet.

1. Fishing in the posted area of Waterloo Creek, Allamakee County, must be by artificial lure only and all trout must be immediately released alive.

2. The minimum size limit on muskellunge is 40 inches.

3. A reciprocal fishing agreement has been made with South Dakota. The agreement applies only to the waters of the Big Sioux River that form a common state boundary with South Dakota. Regulation changes are:

-Northern Pike - daily bag limit 6, possession 12.

-Walleye/Sauger - daily bag limit 4, possession 8.

-Yellow Perch - daily bag limit 25, possession 50.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 900 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger size version of the text is available by calling the DNR at 515/281-5145 (TDD number 515/242-5967) or writing the DNR at 900 East Grand, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.